

COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND METHOD

ABSTRACT

5        A communications system (1) includes a plurality of  
nodes (2). Each node (2) has receiving means for receiving  
a signal transmitted by wireless transmitting means;  
transmitting means for wireless transmission of a signal;  
and, means for determining if a signal received by said  
10 node (2) includes information for another node (2) and  
causing a signal including said information to be  
transmitted by said transmitting means to another node (2)  
if said received signal includes information for another  
node (2). Each node (2) has a substantially unidirectional  
15 point-to-point wireless transmission link (3) with at least  
one other node (2) such that each node (2) can transmit a  
signal to at least one other node (2). At least some of  
the nodes (2) have plural substantially unidirectional  
point-to-point wireless transmission links (3). Each link  
20 (3) between respective pairs of nodes (2) is associated  
with a distinct time slot. The nodes (2) are linked so as  
to form transmission path loops thereby to provide plural  
choices of path for the transmission of a signal between at  
least some of the nodes (2). Each loop consists of an even  
25 number of links (3).